

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197556 TOSEC 200248

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 3147 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANKARA ATHENS
NICOSIA NATO BONN LONDON PARIS 09 AUG 1975

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3147

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJ: GREEK CONCERN OVER SISMIC EXPLORATION WEST OF LESBOS
ISLAND

REF: ATHENS 8068

1. SUMMARY. GREEK PERMREP PAPOULIAS ON INSTRUCTIONS CALLED
ON US DEPUTY PERMREP BENNETT ON AUGUST 9 TO EXPRESS OFFICIAL
CONCERN OVER LATEST SEISMIC EXPLORATORY ACTIVITIES OF
TURKISH SHIP SISMIC I. END SUMMARY.

2. GREEK PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE PAPOULIAS CALLED ON
AMBASSADOR BENNETT UNDER INSTRUCTIONS AT 9:00 AM ON AUGUST
9. PAPOULIAS INDICATED SUNDAY EVENING, AUGUST 8, DURING
TELEPHONE CALL WITH BENNETT THAT THERE WAS
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CONSIDERABLE URGENCY IN THE APPOINTMENT. PAPOULIAS EXPLAINED

THAT HE WOULD CALL ON SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ABE (JAPAN)
AT 9:30 AM AUGUST 9 BUT PREFERRED TO CALL ON US
BEFOREHAND.

3. PAPOULIAS DESCRIBED SISMIC I TESTING ON AUGUST 6 AND
7 WITH SAME COORDINATES AS PROVIDED IN ATHENS 8068. HE
PRODUCED A SERIES OF MAPS WHICH PRESENTED IN OUTLINE THE
TURKISH CLAIMS TO CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE AEGEAN SEA SINCE
1974. ONE SUCH MAP WAS MARKED TO SHOW AREA WEST OF LESBOS
ISLAND WHERE SISMIC I CONDUCTED EXPLORATION OVER THE WEEK-
END. PAPOULIAS NOTED THAT SUCH ACTIVITY BY SISMIC COULD
LEAD TO SITUATION WHERE ARTICLE 34 OF THE UN CHARTER WOULD
NEED TO BE APPLIED. (ARTICLE 34 STATES THAT THE SC MAY
INVESTIGATE ANY DISPUTE TO DETERMINE IF IT IS LIKELY TO
ENDANGER PEACE AND SECURITY.) IN RESPONSE TO
BENNETT'S QUERY, PAPOULIAS REMARKED THAT GREECE WAS NOT
REPEAT NOT REQUESTING A SC MEETING AT THIS TIME.

4. BENNETT NOTED THAT THE US MISSION HAD
RECEIVED A REPORT OF THE GREEK AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE IN
ANKARA. BENNETT REFERRED TO US VIEWPOINT THAT SUCH DISPUTES
SHOULD BE SETTLED BY PEACEFUL MEANS WITH BOTH SIDES
REFRAINING FROM TAKING PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS. PAPOULIAS
ACKNOWLEDGED THIS AND ADDED THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO
EXPRESS CONCERN AND TO INDICATE THAT THE SITUATION COULD
LEAD TO CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE ARTICLE 34 OF UN CHARTER WOULD BE
APPLICABLE. PAPOULIAS SAID HE WOULD BE GOING BEYOND HIS
BRIEF TO SAY MORE BUT ON A PERSONAL BASIS HE HOPED THE
US AS A CLOSE ALLY WOULD DO WHATEVER POSSIBLE.

5. BENNETT SAID US RECOGNIZED THE SERIOUS POTENTIAL OF
THE SITUATION AND THAT WE WOULD REPORT PAPOULIAS' VISIT TO
DEPARTMENT OF STATE AT ONCE. BENNETT CONCLUDED BY
POINTOUT IMPORTANCE OF STAYING IN CLOSE CONTACT
ON THIS. PAPOULIAS AGREED. BENNETT
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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